

# Consciousness: A quick Look Dec 16 2011

## The Problem of Consciousness

Of course another issue is location of the seat of consciousness. Is it in the body, and if so, which part? <sup>1</sup> Can consciousness reside outside of the physical body, and is it restricted in scale? Can the consciousness of individuals merge, like raindrops, into a sea?

David Bohm applied Eugene Wigner type observations directly to functions of the brain and the problem of consciousness. He concluded that mind and matter “are two aspects of one whole, and are no more separable than form or content. ...Deep down the consciousness of mankind is one.” <sup>2</sup>

Wikipedia provides a good article on the current spectrum of quantum mind theories. <sup>3</sup>

Some sensate schools hold that reductionism will eventually explain mind and consciousness in terms of mechanisms of a biological system, such as action potentials, neurotransmitters, etc. Others believe that consciousness is an emergent property, but there is insufficient evidence to support this hypothesis.

In a 12 lecture course, *Consciousness and Its Implications*, <sup>4</sup> Professor Daniel Robinson discusses what is called the “Problem of Consciousness”, being an embarrassment to both scientific materialism (physicalism) which assumes only matter, and dualism, which asserts two types of stuff; matter and mind. He dismisses epiphenomenalism and explores the difficulty science has in explaining just how neurobiological processes of the brain gives rise to consciousness, in all of it’s multifaceted glory.

He notes Oxford mathematician Roger Penrose’s two books; *The Emperors New Mind*; 1989, and *Shadow Of The Mind*, 1994. Both seek to set limits on the extent to which contemporary physical science may be viewed as promising in relation to the “problem” of consciousness .

Even assuming a connection between quantum mechanics and consciousness; even assuming the validity of Bohm’s implicate and explicate orders and the great significance of the Zero Point Field; even assuming science succeeds in building a theoretical bridge between matter and mind, science is still at an impasse with regard to “explaining” consciousness in a reductionistic way.

## Consciousness as a Fundamental Element of Reality

Interesting web sites promoting consciousness as a fundamental and irreducible element of reality:

<http://www.universaltheory.org/index.htm>

### The linkage of Mind and Matter:

### Consciousness creating reality:

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<sup>1</sup> The heart has been associated with intelligence and consciousness in ancient Chinese and Egyptian cultures, as well as in most religions. Heartmath is a modern scientific institution which has been re-exploring the heart as seat of consciousness. <http://www.unitycenter.net/id31.html>

<sup>2</sup> Daniel Robinson: *Consciousness and Its Implications* CD The Teaching Company, 2007

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum\\_mind](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_mind)

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<sup>4</sup> Daniel Robinson: *Consciousness and Its Implications* CD The Teaching Company, 2007. see also Daniel N. Robinson, *Consciousness and Mental Life*, Columbia University Press, 2007, 264pp. Several reviews of his paper appear at <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=14906>, including a review by a proponent of monistic materialism.